

**I**O all Maiors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, Bailiffs, Constables, and other His Majesties Officers, true Liegemen and Subjects whom it may concern, and to every of them. *Whereas*, I am credibly informed, That there are many and very great Disorders and Abuses committed by divers and sundry Companies of Stage-Players, Tumblers, Vaulters, Dancers on the Ropes, and also by such as go about with Motions and Shews, and other like kind of persons, by reason of certain Grants, Commissions, and Licences, which they have by secret means procured from the KING's MAJESTY, by virtue whereof they do abusively claim unto themselves a kind of Licentious Freedome to Travel, aswell to Shew, Play and Exercise in Eminent Cities and Corporations within this Kingdome, as also from place to place, without the Knowledge and Approbation of His MAJESTIES Office of the Revels, and by that means do take upon them at their own pleasure to Act and set forth in many places of the Kingdome, divers and sundry Playes and Shews, which for the most part are full of Scandal and Offence both against the Church and State, and do likewise greatly abase their Authority in Lending, Letting, and Selling their said Commissions and Licences unto others. By reason whereof, divers Lawless and Wandring persons are suffered to have free passage, unto whom such Grants and Licences were never intended, contrary to His MAJESTIES pleasure, the Laws of this Land, His MAJESTIES Grant and Commission to the Master of the Revells, and the first Institution of the said Office; *These* are therefore in His MAJESTIES Name, strictly to charge and command you, and every of you, that whosoever shall repair to any of your Cities, Boroughs, Towns corporate, Villages, Hamlets, or Parishes, and shall there by vertue of any Commission, Warrant or Licence whatsoever, act, set forth, shew, or present, any Play, Shew, Motion, Feats of Activity, and sights whatsoever, not having a Licence now in force under the Hand and Seal of the office of Sir Henry Herbert Knight, now Master of His MAJESTIES Office of the Revels, or under the Hand of his Deputy, and sealed likewise with the said Seal of the Office; That you, and every of you, at all times for ever hereafter, and do seize and take away all every such Grant, Patents, Commission or Licence whatsoever, from the Bringer or Bearer thereof, and that you forthwith cause the said Grant or Licence, to be conveyed and sent unto His MAJESTIES said Office of the Revels, there to remain at the disposition of the foresaid Master of the said Office; and that to the uttermost of your power, you do from henceforth forbid and suppress all such Playes, Shews, Motions, Feats of Activity, Sights, and every of them, until they shall be Approved, Licenced, and Authorized by the said Sir Henry Herbert, or his said Deputy, in manner aforesaid, who are appointed by His MAJESTY under the Great Seal of *England*, for that end and purpose. *Herein* fail you not, as you will answer the Contrary at your perils; And for your more certainty I advise you to take an exact Copy of this my Mandate. Given at *Whitehall* under my Hand and Seal, this One and Thirtieth day of *July*, in the year of Our Lord God, One Thousand Six hundred Sixty and One.